

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly angled view of the American flag. The blue field with white stars is on the left, and the red and white stripes are on the right. The text is centered on a white rectangular area.

# **Green Card Lottery Winners' Manual**

**May 2006 Edition**

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**United States Green Card Lottery Service**

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## **What this Manual is NOT About**

This manual is NOT about how to apply for the Diversity Visa Lottery. It deals only with applicants who were selected as winners and received a winning notification. If you wish to enter the green card lottery, please go to [www.usgcls.com](http://www.usgcls.com).

The purpose of this manual is to give the reader a general understanding of the green card lottery and the process of obtaining a green card after being selected a winner.

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## **CHAPTER 1**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter provides general information about the green card lottery program. While you may already be familiar with some of this information, we suggest you review it carefully. Much of what people hear or think they know about the green card lottery program is incorrect or misunderstood, and this Chapter will help you get a better understanding of the lottery and the steps necessary to obtain your green card.

#### **What is a Green Card?**

A green card is the common name for a plastic identity card issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS, formerly known as the INS). The green card is proof of the holder's lawful permanent resident status in the United States. Although today the card's background is white, it is known as a "green card" because initially it was green.

#### **What is the Green Card Lottery?**

The green card lottery, officially known as the Diversity Visa Lottery, was established by Congress in 1995. It was intended to provide an immigration opportunity for persons from underrepresented countries. According to the law, no diversity visas shall be provided for "high admission" countries. These countries are those from which a total of 50,000 persons in the Family-Sponsored and Employment-Based visa categories immigrated to the United States during the previous five years. For this reason, one of the requirements to be able to participate in the lottery is that the applicant be a native of a qualifying country. Natives of the following countries could not participate in the 2005 lottery:

Canada, China (mainland-born), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam. Persons born in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR and Taiwan are eligible.

Winners in the lottery are selected by the State Department in a random, computer generated draw, giving all applicants an equal chance to win be selected.

Winning the lottery does NOT automatically give you the right to a green card (see Chapter 3). Instead, it provides winners with the opportunity to get a green card, if they follow additional steps such as providing additional information and proof of meeting the requirements, and passing a medical exam and an interview with an examining officer.

## DV Program Naming Conventions

The naming convention of the green card lottery programs is a bit confusing. Each lottery's name begins with the letters DV, followed by the US government's fiscal year of the deadline in which visas must be issued. For example, the lottery held in calendar year 2005 is called DV2007, because all visas won in that lottery must be issued by September 30, 2007. If you were selected as a winner in the 2005 lottery, but your visa is not issued by that date, you will lose your chance (though you may participate in the lottery again). In the same manner, the 2006 lottery is called DV2008, and so on.

## The Green Card Lottery Process

**Application** – In order to participate in the lottery, the applicant needs to submit an application. Before 2003, all paper applications were to be mailed in to the Kentucky Consular Center for processing. Starting in 2003, all applications must be submitted to the State Department online in an electronic format. For more information on the application process or to apply, please visit the USGCLS web site at [www.usgcls.com](http://www.usgcls.com).

The number of qualifying applications submitted varies each year. Before 2003, around 30% of all applications were disqualified because they failed to meet the submission requirements. After the online application process was introduced, the number of

applicants dropped from over 10 million each year to 5.9 million in 2003 and 6.3 million in 2004. For a summary of lottery statistics, please see Appendix A.

**Selection** – Winners are selected from the list of qualifying applications in a random draw by the State Department. Although the number of visas available is 50,000, over 100,000 winners are selected each year (see “What the Numbers Mean” below). This is because many of those who win will not get the visa because they will be disqualified due to errors on their application, because they do not meet the requirements or simply because they do not pursue the green card.

**Winning Notice** – Winners are notified by the Kentucky Consular Center. The winners’ list is not published. Winning notices are sent ONLY by regular mail ONLY to the address specified on the application. However, if you selected the DVExpress™ option through USGCLS, your winning notification, forms and instructions will be scanned and made available online from your account. Only winners are notified. A sample winning notification can be found in Appendix B.

**Application for Visa** – After receiving the winning notification, winners living outside of the United States can submit a visa immigrant application to the US Consulate office in their home country.

Winners living in the United States can either submit an application to adjust status at their local USCIS office OR return to their home country and apply for an immigrant visa at the US Consulate.

This and the following steps are detailed in the following Chapters.

**Interview** – After the application is received, winners are scheduled for an interview with an examining officer. The examining officer approves or denies the application. If your application is denied, you may file for a Waiver of Inadmissibility and still receive the green card.

**Entering the United States** – If the immigrant visa was approved, winners and their family must enter the United States within six months of the approval date.

## What the Numbers Mean

You may see several different numbers describe the number of winners in the green card lottery, each of which may be correct in its own context:



- Currently, the Number of diversity visas available each year is 55,000.
- In 1995, 5,000 of these visas were set aside by the Nicaraguan Central American Relief Act for beneficiaries of this program. This effectively reduces the total number of visas available each year to 50,000.
- Over 100,000 winners are selected each year. This is because many of those who win will not get the visa because they will be disqualified due to errors on their application, because they do not meet the requirements or simply because they do not pursue the green card.
- Although there are over 100,000 winners, there are still only 50,000 visas available. In addition, each winner's family members who travel with him also reduce the 50,000 visas available.

It is important to understand that once 50,000 visas are issued, you will not be able to get a visa even if you were selected as a winner. For this reason, it is **extremely important** to receive the winning notification as soon as possible and act on it immediately, correctly and without delay.

Because delivery and receipt of the winning notification is so crucial, USGCLS introduced a new delivery option called DVExpress, which is available starting with the 2005 green card lottery. For more information on DVExpress, please visit [www.usgcls.com/dvexpress](http://www.usgcls.com/dvexpress) .

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **THE WINNING NOTICE**

#### **Getting the Notice**

Winning notices are sent directly by the Kentucky Consular Center to the address specified on the application. Winning notices are generally sent during May-July of the year following the lottery. For example, notices to winners of the 2005 lottery will be sent out in May-July 2006.

Winning notices are sent **only** by postal mail and **only** directly by the Kentucky Consular Center. However, applicants who selected the DVExpress™ option will be able to log in to their USGCLS account and download a scanned copy of their winning notification.

#### **Delivery to another Person**

In certain situations, if your registration was entered by another person or company, they may have entered (with or without your knowledge and consent) their address on the application form instead of yours. Because the winning notification is sent to the address listed on the application, the winning notice will be sent to them instead of you. This means that you rely on them to receive and deliver the winning notice promptly to you. This method is not recommended unless you can verify that you are dealing with a reputable company or individual. Also, in the past there have been cases where such companies have held winners 'hostage' by demanding large sums of money for release of the documents, or requiring winners to process their winning application through them for large sums of money. Any such action should be reported immediately by you to the appropriate authorities.

#### **Fraud Alert!**

Recently, many individuals received several versions of fraudulent emails regarding the

green card lottery. The emails notify the recipients that they have won the lottery, and ask for large amounts of money in order to continue the process or issue the green card. A sample fraudulent email text can be found in Appendix C.

It is important to know the following facts:

- Winning notices are sent **only** by the United States Department of State, National Visa Center.
- Winning notices are sent **only** by regular (postal) mail **only** to the address specified on the application.
- Winning notices do NOT ask for any payment of additional funds (however, the application process for the green card does require payment of additional fees).
- A sample authentic winning notice can be found in Appendix B.
- If the person or company who registered you entered their address on your application, it means they will get the winning notice. If they contact you by other methods such as email, demand to see the official State Department notification. Do not rely only on their telling you that you were selected.
- Receiving a fraudulent email does not mean that the sender has any information about the recipient or the recipient's applying for the lottery. It only means that the sender has the recipient's email address. The senders simply send the emails to millions of email addresses they obtained in methods entirely non-lottery related.
- Applicants who won and selected the DVExpress option WILL receive notification by email. The notification will be sent in accordance with DVSecure specifications (see below). In addition, the applicant will be able to access the digital version of the official winning notification by logging in to the USGCLS account.
- If you receive any email which you believe is suspicious, do NOT respond to it in any way. You may also report it to the appropriate authorities.

In order to reduce the risk of fraudulent communications, USGCLS has introduced a new safety measure called DVSecure. All outgoing DVSecure USGCLS emails contain certain information such as your Registration ID and password to help you know the

email is actually from USGCLS. For more information about DVSecure, please visit the usgcls web site at [www.usgcls.com](http://www.usgcls.com) .

## **Only Winners are Notified**

Only winners are notified. If you did not receive a winning notification by the end of July, you did not win. You may register again for the next lottery at [www.usgcls.com](http://www.usgcls.com) .

Please note that not all winning notices are sent on the same day. Mailing of the winning notices is a **process** that takes several weeks, and the order in which they are sent varies. Therefore, do not make any assumptions about your status just because you know someone else has already received their notification and you did not receive yours yet.

## **The Winners' List**

The winners' list is not published, and the Kentucky Consular Center and US Embassies and Consulates will not be able to provide you with such a list. However, statistical numbers regarding the number of winners from each country are made public. A list of last year's lottery statistics can be found in Appendix D. The numbers for the 2005 lottery will be made public later this year and published on the USGCLS website.

## **Your Lottery Rank**

At the bottom left of your winning notification, above your name, you will see your case number, which also reflects your lottery rank and your region of chargeability. The lottery rank indicates the order in which your visa application will be processed. The lower the lottery rank, the earlier the processing, and the higher your chance is of getting one of the 50,000 visas available.

You can find out your current chances of getting a green card using your lottery rank and the Monthly Visa Bulletin which is published by the State Department on a monthly basis. The Monthly Visa Bulletin lists the cut-off ranks for the Diversity Visa for the upcoming month. For example, Appendix F shows a sample issue of the Monthly Visa Bulletin for

the month of July 2006 (only the relevant table is shown).

Using the data in the table, assuming you were a DV-2006 winner and your region of chargeability was Africa, your visa could be issued in July only if your lottery rank was below 27,850. If your lottery rank was higher, say 29,000 you would not be able to get a visa in July. However, the cutoffs are increased each month, so if for example in July's Monthly Visa Bulletin, the cutoff for Africa was 30,000, then your visa could be issued. Note that the cutoff numbers for the DV-2007 lottery will only be published starting in the September 2006 issue of the bulletin.

You can obtain a copy of the Monthly Visa Bulletin by subscribing to the State Department's mailing list by sending an email to [subscribe@calist.state.gov](mailto:subscribe@calist.state.gov) and in the email body writing and in the message body type: "Subscribe Visa-Bulletin First name/Last name" (for example "Subscribe Visa-Bulletin John Doe").

**IMPORTANT:** The cutoff numbers affect the issuance of the visas and not when you should submit your forms. Regardless of your lottery rank, you should start the application process as soon as possible after you have received the winning notification.

## **Change of Address**

Winning notifications are sent only to the address listed on the application. Once the application is entered into the lottery, the address can not be updated. If you have moved to a new address, your best option is to arrange for mail forwarding from your old address to your new one. This option is generally available in most countries.

## **DVExpress**

As you can see, getting the winning notice quickly and reliably is of crucial importance. In order to deal with problems such as unreliable mail service in different countries, changes of address, and long delivery times, USGCLS introduced a new option called DVExpress. Applicants who select this option will be able to download their winning notification from the USGCLS web site as soon as it becomes available. For more information about DVExpress, please go to [www.usgcls.com/dvexpress](http://www.usgcls.com/dvexpress).

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **WINNING DOESN'T MEAN YOU'LL GET A GREEN CARD!**

Winning the green card lottery does not mean you'll automatically get a green card, for the following reasons:

#### **Additional Steps**

Winning the lottery does NOT automatically give you the right to a green card. Instead, it provides you with the **opportunity** to get a green card, if you follow additional steps. In many cases, this is the only realistic opportunity for those wishing to immigrate to the United States. The steps you will need to take include providing additional information and proof of meeting the requirements, passing a medical exam and an interview with an examining officer. They are outlined in the following Chapters.

#### **Only 50,000 Visas are Available**

While over 100,000 winners are selected, only 50,000 visas are available to be issued (for a more detailed explanation about the number of winners, please see Chapter 1). In addition, there are actually less than 50,000 winners, since each winner's family members who are issued visas are also taken from the pool of 50,000. For example, if the first winner also brings along his wife and child, there will only be 47,997 visas left. For this reason, it is extremely important to act quickly and complete all of the steps in the following Chapters as soon as possible.

## **All Visas Must be Issued by the End of the Fiscal Year**

Even if there are enough visas left, the entire process, including actual issuance of the visa, must be completed by the end of the US Government's Fiscal Year. This means that for the 2005 lottery, all visas must be issued before September 30, 2007. This is another reason why a quick response is essential.

## **Speed and Care are of the Essence**

While your lottery rank is issued randomly and is entirely out of your control, the other factors listed above make it essential that you act quickly as soon as you receive your winning notification. Although acting quickly is essential, you should also act carefully. Consider and follow all options and instructions carefully, as any change or error can result in delays, which can have a significant adverse effect on your chances of getting a green card.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **CONGRATULATIONS! NOW WHAT?**

If you got this far, this means that you have received a genuine winning notification and congratulations are in order! But you are only part of the way there. Read the following Chapters carefully to understand what needs to be done.

#### **Permanent Residency**

Before you start the application process, it is important to understand the benefits and limitations of becoming a permanent resident.

##### **Benefits:**

As a permanent resident, you will be able to:

- Live permanently anywhere in the United States
- Travel outside of the United States and come back whenever you wish (see limitations below)
- Work in any job that you can obtain
- Start your own business
- Study in any educational institution
- Receive certain financial aid and benefits such as grants, loans and scholarships.
- After five years as a permanent resident, you may file for citizenship.

##### **Limitations:**

Some of the limitations are:

- You must continue to “reside” in the United States and make it your permanent home. This means you must live in the United States most of the time. If you leave the United States for more than one year at a time, you risk losing your permanent residence status. With special permission, you may leave for up to



two years.

- You must file and pay US taxes on your world wide income.
- You can not vote, hold public office or obtain a US passport. These rights will be available only if you later become a US citizen.

Once you understand the benefits and limitations of getting a green card, decide whether you wish to pursue it. If you decide you do not wish to have a green card, you do not need to do anything else. After the passage of time, your right to apply for an immigrant visa will automatically expire by September of the following year. You can always register again for the lottery at a later date, though there is no guaranty you will win again.

## Application Process

Assuming you decide you wish to pursue your green card, the application process depends on whether you live in or out of the United States when you receive the winning notice:

### Persons living outside the United States

If you do not live in the United States when you receive the winning notice, you will have to *apply for an immigrant visa* through the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. You should do so immediately, and the use of an immigration attorney is recommended.

If you live outside of the United States, please see Chapter 5 – Applying for an Immigrant Visa.

### Persons living in the United States

If you live in the United States when you receive the winning notice, you have two options:

Option 1 - In certain situations, you may wish to *apply for an immigrant visa* as if you were living outside the United States. Of course, in this case you will have to leave the United States for a few months.

Option 2 – You may be able to *file for adjustment of status* without leaving the United States.

For option 1, please see Chapter 5 – Applying for an Immigrant Visa.  
For option 2, please see Chapter 6 – Adjustment of Status.

The option you choose depends on several factors and your specific situation and is beyond the scope of this manual. We strongly suggest you discuss this with an immigration attorney.

## **Using an Immigration Attorney**

If there is one recommendation we can make, it is to use an attorney to apply for your permanent visa. The process of applying for a permanent visa or change of status in order to get your green card is more complicated than simply registering for the lottery. The options available are more complex, the forms and information required are more detailed, and your specific situation may present additional considerations which you need to be aware of. All of these can not be dealt with in this manual.

The purpose of this manual is to help you generally understand what the steps are and help you prepare the information required in advance, but it can not replace an attorney who will assist you in filling and submitting the forms and guide you throughout the process. We also recommend that you do not use just any attorney, but an experienced immigration attorney with specific experience in processing green card lottery applications.

If you wish, USGCLS can provide you with a list of immigration attorneys who can assist you. To obtain an updated list, please send a request by email to [attorneylist@usgcls.com](mailto:attorneylist@usgcls.com).

## CHAPTER 5

### APPLYING FOR AN IMMIGRANT VISA

If you do not live in the United States, you will have to apply for an immigrant visa through the nearest US Embassy or Consulate. In certain situations, you may also be able and wish to apply for an immigrant visa if you live in the United States.

#### Required Documentation

Your winning letter will include the winning notification, and several forms and instructions. We recommend that you download and print a sample of the main forms to see the kind of information that is required:

- Form DSP-122 (Supplemental Registration for the Diversity Immigrant Visa Program) - Only the Principal Applicant needs to complete Form DSP-122. You can download this form from <http://foia.state.gov/FORMS/visa/dsp0122.pdf>
- Form DS-230 Part I (Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration - Biographic Data Sheet) – The Principal Applicant and all family members applying for a Diversity Visa must submit Form DS-230 Part I. You can download this form from <http://foia.state.gov/FORMS/visa/ds0230.pdf> (Parts I and II of Form DS-230 are both in the same file).
- Form DS-230 Part II (Application for Immigrant Visa and Alien Registration - Sworn Statement) The Principal Applicant and all family members applying for a Diversity Visa must submit an unsigned Form DS-230 Part II. You should not sign the form – you will sign it at the consular office. You can download this form from <http://foia.state.gov/FORMS/visa/ds0230.pdf> (Parts I and II of Form DS-230 are both in the same file).

Note: Family members refer only to your spouse and unmarried children who have not reached age 21 before you entered the lottery.

**Important:** The forms included in or available from any links in this manual should NOT

be used. Forms and their instructions change from time to time and may vary from country to country. **DO NOT USE THE SAMPLE FORMS. USE ONLY THE FORMS YOU RECEIVE WITH YOUR WINNING NOTIFICATION!**

It is important that to the fullest extent possible, all information appearing on the forms you submit be the same as the information you submitted on your green card lottery application. To prevent delays and problems, it is also important that you are consistent, and fill in the same information in each form.

Some of the required documentation is described below. **IMPORTANT: THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED BELOW IS A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AND MAY BE DIFFERENT IN CERTAIN ASPECTS FROM YOUR SPECIFIC CASE. ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS SENT TO YOU BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH YOUR WINNING NOTIFICATION.**

It tends to fall into three categories: Proof of eligibility such as your birth certificate and high school diploma, proof of the eligibility of your family members such as a marriage or birth certificate, and other required documents which are described below, and are required from all people who apply for an immigration visa to the United States and not just winners of the Diversity Visa.

#### **Proof of Education or Qualifying Training**

If you successfully completed the equivalent of a US high school education (twelve years of school), provide a diploma or other certificate of such completion.

If you do not have the required education, you will need to show that during the past five years, you have had at least two years of work experience in one of the qualifying occupations. **IMPORTANT: The list of qualifying occupations has changed. Do NOT rely on old lists to check if you qualify.**

The list of qualifying occupations is available by accessing the Department of Labor (DOL) O\*Net Online database. The DOL database groups job experience into five "job zones." While many occupations are listed on the DOL Website, only certain specified occupations qualify for the Diversity Visa Program. To qualify for a Diversity Visa on the basis of your work experience, you must, within the past five years, have two years of experience in an occupation that is designated as **Job Zone 4 or 5, classified in a Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) range of 7.0 or higher.**

Qualifying DV Occupations are listed on the Department of Labor O\*Net [Online](#)

[Database](#). Follow these steps to find out if your occupation qualifies: Select "Find Occupations" and then select a specific "Job Family". (For example, select Architecture and Engineering and click "GO". Then click on the link for the specific Occupation (For example, Aerospace Engineers). After selecting a specific Occupation link, select the tab "Job Zone" to find out the designated Job Zone number and Specific Vocational Preparation (SVP) rating range.

### **Birth Certificates**

Provide the original or certified copy, of the birth record of each family member (yourself, your spouse, and all unmarried children under the age of 21, even if they are not immigrating with you). If your birth certificate is unavailable, obtain a statement from the appropriate government authority stating the reason your birth record is not available.

### **Marriage Certificates**

Married applicants must provide an original marriage certificate, or a certified copy, bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority. Applicants who have been previously married must obtain evidence of the termination of EACH prior marriage. Evidence must be in the form of original documents issued by a competent authority, or certified copies bearing the appropriate seal or stamp of the issuing authority, for example a divorce certificate, a document of annulment or a death certificate.

### **Passports**

You will need to have a passport for yourself and your family members. The immigrant visa can not be issued without a passport. Since obtaining new passports or extending the expiration of current ones may take some time in your home country, you should start this step as soon as possible. Note that a green card does not allow you to obtain a US passport and you will still need your home country's passport to go in and out of the United States.

### **Military Records**

Persons who have served in the military forces of any country must obtain one copy of their military record.

### **Police Clearance Certificates**

Police certificates are required for each visa applicant aged 16 years or older. A police certificate must be obtained from each country where the applicant has spent more than one year over the age of 16. Present and former residents of the United States should NOT obtain any police certificates covering their residence in the U.S.

You do not need to obtain police certificates covering residence in any of countries named below, as they are either not available, or they are obtained directly by the Embassy.

Afghanistan, Albania, Angola, Bangladesh, Bermuda, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua.

### **Arrest Records**

Persons who have been convicted of a crime must obtain a certified copy of each arrest record, regardless of the fact that he or she may have subsequently benefited from an amnesty, pardon or other act of clemency.

### **Photographs**

You will need to provide two or more color photographs. Follow the photograph specifications carefully. NOTE: THESE ARE NOT THE SAME SPECIFICATIONS AS FOR THE ONLINE LOTTERY ENTRY.

### **Vaccinations**

You will be required to provide vaccination certificates for the following diseases: Mumps, Measles, Rubella, Polio, Influenza Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids; Pertussis; Influenza Type B (HIB); Varicella; Pneumococcal.

### **Financial Support**

You must provide evidence to demonstrate your ability to support yourself and your family members in the United States. You may show that you have enough savings or a job offer from a US employer, or other evidence such as a high level of education or a history of employment in a financially good job etc. If you can not show this, you will need to get a friend or relative fill out Form I-864, Affidavit of Support. The form shows that someone is willing to take financial responsibility for you if you will not be able to support yourself in the United States.

### **Medical Examination**

You and everyone who will travel with you are required to take a general medical examination. This will usually be shortly prior to your interview (see below). Examinations are performed by doctors associated with the US Consulate.

The medical exam consists of a general physical exam, chest x-ray, and blood tests. The doctor performing the exam will also verify that you have received the required vaccinations.

### **The Interview**

After you submit the required forms and documentation that were included with your winning notification, you will receive by mail a new packet of information. This will include an invitation for your interview, instructions regarding the medical exam and other information.

You and all members of your family who will be traveling with you will need to appear at the interview. You will need to bring all of your supporting documentation. During the interview, your supporting documents will be reviewed, and you will be asked questions to confirm that you are eligible to enter the United States and are not inadmissible.

## **Immigrant Visa Approval**

If all of your documents are in order and there are no problems during the interview, your visa will be issued.

Congratulations! You can now become a permanent resident of the United States! However, you must enter the United States within six months of your visa issuance. If you do not, you may lose your visa.

## **Denials**

Some of the common reasons for rejection are applications that are incomplete or with errors. Other reasons for denial are if you are found ineligible (for example you do not have the required education or are a native of a non-qualifying country) or inadmissible (for example due to past criminal behavior or health).

Depending on the reason for the rejection, you may apply again (for example if documents were missing from your application), or file for a Waiver of Inadmissibility if you were found inadmissible, and still receive the green card. This part of the process is beyond the scope of this manual, and it is highly recommend that you consult an immigration attorney at this stage if you haven't done so until now.



## **CHAPTER 6**

### **ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS**

If you **do** live in the United States, you may either apply for an immigrant visa through the US Embassy or Consulate in your home country (see Chapter 5), or apply for adjustment of status through your local USCIS office. As mentioned earlier, the decision depends on your specific situation and it is strongly recommended to check with an immigration attorney, especially if you have remained longer than your authorized visit or are illegally in the United States.

#### **Required Documentation**

If you decide to apply for adjustment of status, you will need to provide most of the information and forms as those who apply for an immigrant visa outside of the United States. For a description of these forms and documentation, please see Chapter 5.

**In addition**, you will be required to provide Form I-485 Application to Adjust Status and other forms depending on your specific situation.

It is important that to the fullest extent possible, all information appearing on the forms you submit be the same as the information you submitted on your green card lottery application. To prevent delays and problems, it is also important that you are consistent, and fill in the same information in each form.

#### **The Interview**

After you submit the required forms and documentation and pass the medical exam, you will receive an appointment for an interview at a local USCIS office. During the interview, your supporting documents will be reviewed, and you will be asked questions to confirm that you are eligible to enter the United States and are not inadmissible.

## **Adjustment of Status Approval**

If all of your documents are in order and there are no problems during the interview, you will receive an immigrant identification number and automatically become a lawful permanent resident of the United States.

## **Denials**

Some of the common reasons for rejection are applications that are incomplete or with errors. Other reasons for denial are if you are ineligible (for example you do not have the required education or are a native of a non-qualifying country) or inadmissible (for example due to past criminal behavior or health).

Depending on the reason for the rejection, you may file a motion to reopen (for example if documents were missing from your application), or file for a Waiver of Inadmissibility if you were found inadmissible, and still receive the green card. This part of the process is beyond the scope of this manual, and it is highly recommend that you consult an immigration attorney at this stage if you haven't done so until now.

## **CHAPTER 7**

### **SUMMARY**

Winning doesn't mean you'll automatically get the green card. This is partly out of your control, since your lottery rank is determined by chance. However, you can significantly increase your chances of being one of the 50,000 who do get a green card, instead of the 50,000 who don't, if you act quickly, carefully and intelligently.

#### **Act Quickly**

As detailed above, one of the major factors is speed. As soon as you get the winning notification, start the process of applying for a permanent visa or adjustment of status.

Begin obtaining the documentation you will need including:

- Proof of your nativity – birth certificate or other documentation
- Proof of your education or qualifying training – diploma or other applicable documentation
- Proof of derivative status for your family – birth and marriage certificates
- Other requirements for immigrant visas for you and your family such as military records, police clearance certificates, arrest records, photographs, vaccinations, medical exams.
- Passports for you and your family
- Proof of Support.

#### **Act Carefully**

Be consistent in all of the information you provide. Try to avoid any inconsistencies between your lottery application, the forms you fill and the documentary evidence you

provide. Be careful not to make mistakes. Any mistake can cause a significant delay in the processing of your application.

**Act Intelligently.**

Use an experienced immigration attorney. If you wish, USGCLS can provide you with a list of immigration attorneys who can assist you. To obtain an updated list, please send a request by email to [attorneylist@usgcls.com](mailto:attorneylist@usgcls.com).

## **APPENDIX A**

### **LOTTERY STATISTICS**

The following table shows the number of qualified entries and disqualified applications each year.

<b>Program</b>	<b>Qualified Entries</b>	<b>Disqualified Applications*</b>
DV-2006	6.3 million	NA
DV-2005	5.9 Million	NA
DV-2004	7.3 Million	2.9 Million
DV-2003	6.2 Million	2.5 Million
DV-2002	10 Million	3 Million
DV-2001	11 Million	2 Million
DV-2000	8 Million	2.5 Million
DV-1999	3.4 Million	2.4 Million
DV-1998	4.7 Million	1.3 Million

\* Entries that do not conform to the strict submission requirements published by the State Department are disqualified. Starting in 2003, paper applications are no longer accepted, and the number of disqualified registrations is no longer published.

## APPENDIX B

### SAMPLE WINNING NOTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
KENTUCKY CONSULAR CENTER (KCC)  
3505 North Highway 25W  
Williamsburg, KY 40769  
U.S.A.

April 15, 2003

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Congratulations! You are among those randomly selected and registered for further consideration in the DV-2003 diversity immigrant program for fiscal year 2003 (October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003). Selection does not guarantee that you will receive a visa because the number of applicants selected is greater than the number of visas available. Please retain this letter and take it with you to your visa interview.

Approximately 100,000 individuals were registered for further processing. However there are only between 50,000 & 55,000 diversity visas available under the FISCAL YEAR 2004 DIVERSITY VISA PROGRAM. Therefore, it is most important that you carefully follow these instructions to increase your chances of possible visa issuance.

Please read and follow all the enclosed instructions very carefully. ALL FORMS AND CORRESPONDENCE must be sent to the Kentucky Consular Center at the above address. Please notify the Kentucky Consular Center of any change in address, addition or deletion of any family members, and any other information which you believe may effect your application.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN FORMS 230 PART I, 230 PART II, AND DSP-122 FOR YOURSELF AND FORMS 130 PART I AND 230 PART II FOR ALL ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBERS TO THE KENTUCKY CONSULAR CENTER. WRITE THE CASE NUMBER IN THE UPPER RIGHT HAND CORNER OF EACH FORM. PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL BLOCKS ARE COMPLETED.**

Please be advised that even though you send all of the above listed documents to the KCC, your Case may not be scheduled for an interview appointment until a visa number is available. You will only be contacted by the KCC when a visa appointment is scheduled. Please do not call us to check when your case will be scheduled.

If it should be necessary to contact the Kentucky Consular Center by telephone YOU MUST ALWAYS REFER TO YOUR NAME AND CASE NUMBER EXACTLY AS THEY APPEAR BELOW. Your case number should be clearly written in the upper right hand corner of ALL documents and correspondence sent to the Kentucky Consular Center.

Case Number:  
PA Name:  
Preference Category:  
Foreign State Chargeability:  
Post:

[REDACTED]

## APPENDIX C

### SAMPLE FRAUDULENT EMAIL

From Office of Mr. Kelvin Powell,  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Sir/Madam,

Congratulations, you have been selected as one of the lucky winners on our internet screening machine,DV-2004-2006 USA national visa lottery program.

It is my pleasure to congratulate you on your success in the America DV-2004- 2006 VISA LOTTERY GREENCARD which was applied and processed by our agency.

Your visa lottery winner's identity is ID-4200DV and your serial winning number visa passport with US SNVPh700IU is in this respect, you are therefore directed to forward the following requirements:

PLEASE NOTE : YOU SHOULD REPLY TO THIS MAIL ADDRESS :

< info\_dvuslottery2005@yahoo.com>

1. Your present contact address(for correspondent)
2. Your recent passport photograph via email attachment.
3. Your children's name, (if any)

Clearance/Acceptance fee:

After receiving the requested information, we shall advise you in our next correspondent how much you will be require to pay for acceptance and clearance visa fee, and upon receipt and confirmation of the money, we will mail the lottery visa to you.

Note: Your winning status shall reveal no interest and we would in response refer your Lottery Code and acknowledgement card back to the US government/Immigration Service Centre for further action.

We shall be anticipating for your reply soon.

Please forward your information to:- dv\_american\_visalottery@walla.com

Yours faithfully,  
Marykate Purchia  
Co-ordinator

## APPENDIX D

### DV-2005 STATISTICS

The following is the statistical breakdown by country of those registered for the 2003 lottery (called DV-2005). Statistical information regarding the 2004 lottery will be posted on the USGCLS web site once the numbers are officially released for publication.

#### AFRICA

ALGERIA 1,377	ERITREA 672	NAMIBIA 5
ANGOLA 21	ETHIOPIA 6,995	NIGER 62
BENIN 328	GABON 26	NIGERIA 6,191
BOTSWANA 11	GAMBIA, THE 127	RWANDA 26
BURKINA FASO 164	GHANA 3,880	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE 2
BURUNDI 60	GUINEA 249	SENEGAL 280
CAMEROON 1,639	GUINEA-BISSAU 3	SEYCHELLES 4
CAPE VERDE 2	KENYA 2,827	SIERRA LEONE 555
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP. 10	LESOTHO 0	SOMALIA 221
CHAD 30	LIBERIA 695	SOUTH AFRICA 311
COMOROS 3	LIBYA 51	SUDAN 805
CONGO 149	MADAGASCAR 22	SWAZILAND 9
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC	MALAWI 27	TANZANIA 251
REPUBLIC OF THE 665	MALI 99	TOGO 2,138
COTE D'IVOIRE 374	MAURITANIA 31	TUNISIA 122
DJIBOUTI 12	MAURITIUS 8	UGANDA 190
EGYPT 6,439	MOROCCO 5,980	ZAMBIA 99
EQUATORIAL GUINEA 5	MOZAMBIQUE 6	ZIMBABWE 157

#### ASIA

AFGHANISTAN 52	IRAQ 84	NEPAL 1,934
BAHRAIN 0	ISRAEL 116	OMAN 3
BANGLADESH 5,456	JAPAN 336	QATAR 7
BHUTAN 3	JORDAN 81	SAUDI ARABIA 55
BRUNEI 1	NORTH KOREA 0	SINGAPORE 40
BURMA 659	KUWAIT 15	SRI LANKA 387
CAMBODIA 107	LAOS 0	SYRIA 47
HONG KONG SPECIAL	LEBANON 108	THAILAND 76
ADMIN. REGION 83	MALAYSIA 55	TAIWAN 353
INDONESIA 263	MALDIVES 0	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 30



## APPENDIX D – DV-2005 STATISTICS

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IRAN 934

MONGOLIA 141

YEMEN 47

### EUROPE

ALBANIA 2,504

ANDORRA 0

ARMENIA 757

AUSTRIA 62

AZERBAIJAN 196

BELARUS 698

BELGIUM 28

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA 70 KAZAKHSTAN 244

BULGARIA 2,131

CROATIA 42

CYPRUS 18

CZECH REPUBLIC 104

DENMARK 43

ESTONIA 44

FINLAND 61

FRANCE 340

FRENCH SOUTHERN &  
ANTARTIC LANDS 1

MARTINIQUE 1

NEW CALEDONIA 0

REUNION 1

GEORGIA 331

GERMANY 998

GREECE 68

HUNGARY 152

ICELAND 13

IRELAND 145

ITALY 210

KYRGYZSTAN 132

LATVIA 97

LIECHTENSTEIN 0

LITHUANIA 488

LUXEMBOURG 0

MACEDONIA, FORMER

YUGOSLAV REP. OF 202

MALTA 7

MOLDOVA 285

NETHERLANDS 105

NETHERLANDS 105

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES 8

ARUBA 0

NORTHERN IRELAND 63

NORWAY 30

POLAND 3,416

PORTUGAL 28

MACAU 5

ROMANIA 1,716

SAN MARINO 0

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO  
507

SLOVAKIA 223

SLOVENIA 5

SPAIN 61

SWEDEN 110

SWITZERLAND 139

TAJIKISTAN 42

TURKEY 1,357

TURKMENISTAN 76

UKRAINE 5,269

UZBEKISTAN 1,346

VATICAN CITY 0

### NORTH AMERICA

BAHAMAS, THE 12

### OCEANIA

AUSTRALIA 837

COCOS ISLANDS 0

FIJI 757

KIRIBATI 5

MARSHALL ISLANDS 0

MICRONESIA, FEDERATED  
STATES OF 7

NAURU 7

NEW ZEALAND 292

COOK ISLANDS 0

NIUE 5

PALAU 1

PAPUA NEW GUINEA 10

SAMOA 11

SOLOMON ISLANDS 0

TONGA 171

TUVALU 8

VANUATU 0

**SOUTH AMERICA, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN**

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	1	DOMINICA	3	PERU	2,197
ARGENTINA	134	ECUADOR	285	SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS	3
BARBADOS	5	GRENADA	2	SAINT LUCIA	2
BELIZE	8	GUATEMALA	28	SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	3
BOLIVIA	205	GUYANA	36	SURINAME	4
BRAZIL	377	HONDURAS	29	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	120
CHILE	35	NICARAGUA	32	URUGUAY	15
COSTA RICA	34	PANAMA	17	VENEZUELA	266
CUBA	584	PARAGUAY	6		

Natives of the following countries were not eligible to participate in DV-2006: Canada, China (mainland-born, excluding Hong Kong S.A.R., and Taiwan), Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, United Kingdom (except Northern Ireland) and its dependent territories, and Vietnam.

Note that the numbers shown are numbers of lottery winners who were selected and not the number of winners who actually got the green card.

## APPENDIX E

### MONTHLY VISA BULLETIN

The following shows the cutoff ranks from the June 2006 Monthly Visa Bulletin.

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THE DIVERSITY (DV) IMMIGRANT CATEGORY RANK CUT-OFFS WHICH WILL APPLY IN JULY

Region	All DV Chargeability Areas Except Those Region listed Separately	
AFRICA	AF 27,850	Except: Ethiopia 22,800 Nigeria 14,675
ASIA	AS 7,225	
EUROPE	EU 15,250	
NORTH AMERICA (BAHAMAS)	NA 13	
OCEANIA	OC 930	
SOUTH AMERICA, and the CARIBBEAN	SA 1,610	